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BOROUGH OF ELLESmere PORT

Annual Report

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

— For the Year 1958 —



W. J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

E. TUFT,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



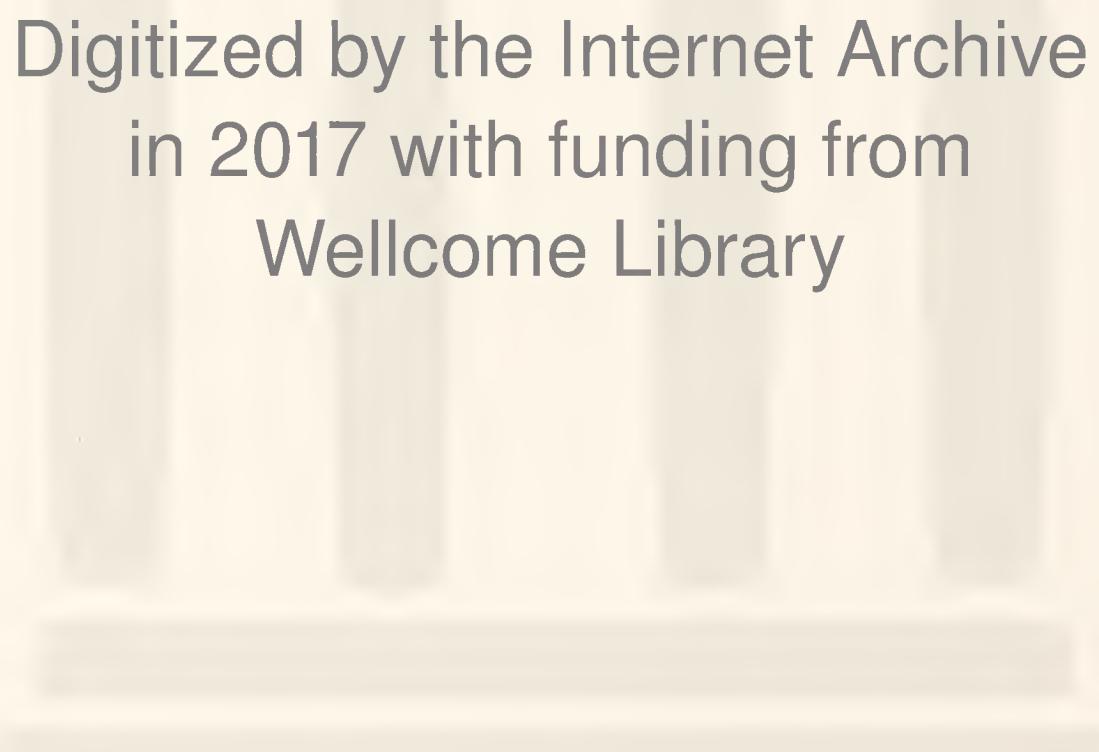
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BOROUGH OF ELLESMORE PORT

Annual Health Report
FOR THE YEAR 1958

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

E. TUFT, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. K. FRANCIS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

G. KINREAD, M.A.P.H.I. — G. CARR, M.A.P.H.I.
K. WADDINGTON, M.A.P.H.I.

Student Inspector: A. S. FIDLING

Clerk: G. POWELL

Shorthand-Typist: Mrs. A. RICHARDSON

Part-Time Typist: Mrs. N. BYRON

Clerk Typist: Mrs. M. ELLIS

Members of the Health Committee, 1958:

Councillor C. E. BRODIE, A.F.Inst.Pet., M.R.S.H., Chairman
The Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman C. PRICE, J.P., (ex-officio)
Deputy Mayor, Alderman J. GROOME, C.C., (ex-officio)
Aldermen: Miss V. CRUTCHLEY, P. H. HALL.

Councillors: E. C. BIGGS, J. J. BLACKWELL
J. H. BROADHOUSE, G. GREAVES,
G. O. GRIFFIN, J. W. RIMMER, K. J. YOUNG,

Town Clerk:

R. J. BERNIE, LL.B.(Lond.)

BOROUGH OF ELLESMORE PORT

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1958

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

OFFICE: 16 WHITE FRIARS, CHESTER
Telephone No: CHESTER 20071

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH For the Year 1958

To: THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF ELLESMORE PORT.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1958.

The local Vital Statistics show a slight increase in the Birth and Death Rates, and a larger increase in the Infant Mortality Rate, which was particularly low in 1957. Nationally there is a small increase in the Birth and Death Rates, whilst the Infant Mortality Rate is slightly lower, and is the lowest ever recorded in this country.

A summary of the main statistical items is given below, together with those for England and Wales.

The Crude Death Rate is 8.41 per 1,000 estimated population, compared with 8.14 in 1957. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.7. The Birth Rate is 21.66 per 1,000 population: in 1957 the Rate was 21.39. The Infant Mortality Rate is 30.04 per 1,000 live births, compared with 16.16 in 1957. The Rate for England and Wales is 22.5.

Measles (298 cases), was the commonest Infectious Disease notified, followed by Dystentery (75 cases). Next came Whooping Cough (29 cases) and Scarlet Fever (28 cases).

Fourteen fresh cases of Tuberculosis were reported, compared with 11 in the previous year.

Twenty-one cases of Food Poisoning were notified in one group. This was a mild outbreak which occurred early in July and involved pupils resident in Ellesmere Port and attending a County Grammar School outside the Borough.

There were also two outbreaks of Gastro Enteritis at two industrial establishments, and despite extensive investigations carried out by the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff the causative agent was not found.

Towards the end of May there was a Smallpox scare in the district when a case was discovered in the out-patient department of Clatterbridge Hospital. There were numerous indirect contacts

in the Borough; in fact, an Ellesmere Port Ambulance with driver and attendant, and residents of the Borough inside, was at the out-patient department of the hospital at the time. Intense activity followed during the next few weeks in seeking suspected contacts in the Borough, and vaccinating them, including the Health Department and Ambulance staffs and their families. With the helpful co-operation of local doctors, several hundred vaccinations were performed at doctors' surgeries and special extra clinics held for this specific purpose. Fortunately, no case of Smallpox occurred in the Borough.

It is pleasing to learn that the first Smoke Control Order will come into operation before next winter, and should prove to be a measure generally beneficial to the public.

It will be noted that the general standard of samples taken for examination in the routine sampling of foodstuffs is very satisfactory, and indicates the control exercised in this direction.

The work undertaken in connection with Food Hygiene is to be commended, as it helps to maintain a high standard of food handling throughout the Borough.

From the information supplied by the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board it will be observed that a large part of the Borough now receives River Dee water, which is softer than the borehole waters. It has not been found possible to resume softening of borehole supplies during the year, but apparently it is the Board's policy to do so after reconstruction of the plant. I have previously reported on the hardness of the water supply within the Borough, and of the need for a resumption of softening operations.

In the Report of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures it will be noted that of the fifty-three samples of milk taken for examination by his department, five were reported as being adulterated, below standard, or otherwise incorrect; remarks are included in the Report in connection with these samples; also four samples of other foodstuffs were reported to be unsatisfactory.

Included at the end of the Report is an extract from my annual Report as Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services operating on behalf of the County Council in the South West Cheshire Division, of which the Borough of Ellesmere Port forms part.

In conclusion, I express my appreciation of the support received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and the co-operation and assistance of the Staff of the Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. BIRCHALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS



Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,420
Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,144
Number of houses and flats in the area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,081
Rateable Value (1st April, 1959)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£855,366
Sum represented by the Penny Rate (1959/60) Estimated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,550

The Natural Increase in Population (that is, excess of births over deaths) is shewn in the following tables.

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000	Population	Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000	Population
		Population				Population	
1943	27,560	15.5		1951	32,670	7.89	
1944	27,220	13.44		1952	33,680	12.29	
1945	27,160	10.9		1953	34,470	13.75	
1946	28,740	12.49		1954	35,130	11.04	
1947	29,670	15.9		1955	36,010	12.16	
1948	30,860	13.3		1956	36,830	12.51	
1949	31,290	10.88		1957	37,580	13.25	
1950	32,110	10.33		1958	38,420	13.25	

The Natural Increase in Population (that is, excess of births over deaths) 1943-1958 (England and Wales)—

Year	Population	per 1,000	Population	Year	Population	per 1,000	Population
		Population				Population	
1943	...	4.4		1951	...	3.0	
1944	...	6.0		1952	...	4.0	
1945	...	4.7		1953	...	4.1	
1946	...	7.6		1954	...	3.9	
1947	...	8.5		1955	...	3.3	
1948	...	7.1		1956	...	4.0	
1949	...	5.0		1957	...	4.6	
1950	...	4.2		1958	...	4.7	

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS for the Year 1958

(Compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General)



	LIVE BIRTHS					Males	Females	Total
			
Legitimate	394	412	806
Illegitimate	10	16	26
						404	428	832
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	21.66	
Corrected Birth Rate	20.57	
Comparability Factor	0.95	
Illegitimate live births as percentage of total live births	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.1%

	STILL BIRTHS					Males	Females	Total
			
Legitimate	10	10	20
Illegitimate	1	—	1
						11	10	21
Total live and still births	853

Still birth rate 24.62 per 1,000 total live and still births

The average number of births per annum in the years 1943-1957
was 672.

TABLE OF NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES
1943 - 1957

Year	No.	Birth Rate	Year	No.	Birth Rate
1943	...	21.87	1951	...	18.48
1944	...	22.44	1952	...	20.01
1945	...	20.43	1953	...	20.50
1946	...	22.09	1954	...	19.70
1947	...	24.60	1955	...	20.35
1948	...	21.54	1956	...	19.98
1949	...	21.50	1957	...	21.39
1950	...	19.31			
Birth Rate, England and Wales, 1958	16.4
Birth Rate, England and Wales, 1957	16.1
Birth Rate, Administrative County of Cheshire, 1957	15.6

DEATHS

Males 172

Females 151

Total 323

Death Rate 8.41, Corrected Death Rate 12.61, Comparability Factor 1.5

TABLE OF NUMBER OF DEATHS AND DEATH RATES
1943 — 1957

Year	Number	Death Rate	Year	Number	Death Rate
1943	276	10.01	1951	346	10.59
1944	245	9.0	1952	260	7.71
1945	252	9.28	1953	233	8.97
1946	276	9.60	1954	304	8.65
1947	257	8.66	1955	295	8.19
1948	252	8.19	1956	314	8.52
1949	223	9.54	1957	306	8.14
1950	282	11.76			

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1943 to 1957 was 275.

Death Rate, England and Wales, 11.7 per 1,000 population.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

			Number	Rate
All infants, per 1,000 live births	...	...	25	30.04
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...		24	29.78
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			1	38.46
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	...	...	19	22.84
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...			22.5

TABLE OF INFANT MORTALITY, 1943—1957

Year		Rate per 1,000 births	Year		Rate per 1,000 births
1943	...	71.3	1951	...	31.45
1944	...	34.3	1952	...	31.15
1945	...	46.85	1953	...	22.63
1946	...	55.11	1954	...	31.79
1947	...	56.16	1955	...	25.92
1948	...	33.08	1956	...	23.22
1949	...	31.20	1957	...	16.16
1950	...	35.83			
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	63
Maternal Deaths (including Abortion)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	Nil

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The following services are available:—

LABORATORY FACILITIES:

The Public Health Laboratory Service at Birkenhead undertakes free bacteriological examination of milk, water and other specimens for local authorities.

Food and drugs administration is carried out by the County Council, and their officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

FOOD POISONING:

Twenty-one cases occurred during the year. These were all in connection with an outbreak of food poisoning which occurred at a County Grammar School situate outside the Borough, and were pupils attending this school.

The cases were mild in character and soon recovered.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES:

The Ambulance Service for the district operates under the direction of the South West Cheshire Divisional Health Committee of the County Council, with the help of the Chester City Ambulance acting as an agency service. The Ambulance Depot is situated in Ellesmere Port.

NURSING IN THE HOME:

Two full-time District Nurses are engaged under the direction of the County Council in Ellesmere Port, and an additional one in Little Sutton.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES:

These are held at the Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port; the Welfare Centre, Little Sutton; the Community Centre, Overpool; and the Village Hall, Ince.

Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Aural, Ante and Post Natal Clinics are organised under the supervision of specialists at Ellesmere Port.

A School Clinic with Dental Services is also held at the Welfare Centre, Ellesmere Port.

HOSPITALS:

The Clatterbridge General and Isolation Hospitals, in addition to the Ellesmere Port and District Hospital, serve the town for most purposes.

MATERNITY:

Hospital provision is at Clatterbridge, where patients are under the supervision of the Consulting Obstetrician who attends the Ante-Natal Clinics at the Welfare Centre.

In addition there is a separate maternity home at Heswall.

MIDWIVES:

There are five midwives practising in the district, all of whom are employed by the County Council.

SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT:

The provisions of the above Act enable a Local Authority to apply for the compulsory removal to a hospital or County Council Hostel of aged and infirm persons who are in need of care and attention, and are unable to care for themselves. A number of such cases were investigated and were recommended for accommodation in Hospitals or County Council Hostels, and agreed to removal. One application for compulsory removal has been necessary in 1958. This was an aged and infirm lady, who was removed to a County Council Hostel under a Magistrate's Order.

CAUSES OF DEATH

			Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	1	1	2
2.	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilis	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	—	1	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	1	1
8.	Measles	...	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	4	4	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	10	1	11
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	—	9	9
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	4	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	16	15	31
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	—	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	—	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	13	29	42
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	—	44	67
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	—	4	7
20.	Other Heart Diseases	...	—	11	15
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	—	6	9
22.	Influenza	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	—	10	11
24.	Bronchitis	...	—	17	18
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	...	2	—	2
26.	Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	—	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	...	—	1	1
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	—	5	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	—	13	21
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	—	7	9
34.	All other Accidents	...	—	4	4
35.	Suicide	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
			172	151	323
			—	—	—

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the period of 1949—1958 is shewn in the following table, which gives the case rate per 1,000 of the population.

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1949	1.60	0.00	0.06	0.09	10.87	4.12
1950	1.21	0.06	0.00	0.09	10.18	4.17
1951	1.68	0.06	0.00	0.18	11.78	2.84
1952	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.23	14.57	7.77
1953	1.68	0.029	0.00	0.34	6.03	2.52
1954	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.05	21.58	4.32
1955	1.11	0.00	0.00	0.03	11.48	5.58
1956	1.35	0.00	0.05	1.06	8.09	4.20
1957	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.10	32.41	1.75
1958	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.16	7.76	0.76

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION INWARDS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CASES

Disease	Central	Grange	Victoria	Westminster	Stanlow	Poole	Sutton	Whitby	Total
Scarlet Fever	2	4	2	19	5	3	8	2	28
Measles	27	28	19	3	29	40	60	76	298
Whooping Cough	1	4	1	3	—	5	15	—	29
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	7
Erysipelas	2	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	6
Dysentery	4	13	3	10	7	12	1	1	75
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	3	14
Tuberculosis Others	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	4
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Total	38	60	36	37	45	70	88	111	485

TABLE OF AGE GROUPS SHOWING THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES—1958

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		Measles		Dysentery	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	8	3	3
1 year	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4	9	3	—
2 years	—	1	—	—	5	1	—	—	24	19	4	3
3 years	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	21	25	2	1
4 years	—	—	2	4	7	7	—	—	19	20	—	4
5—9 years	6	11	1	—	—	—	1	—	72	64	12	17
10—14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	2
15—24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
25 years and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	11
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total all ages	11	17	—	—	19	10	—	—	1	—	151	147

	Acute Pneumonia		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—	14	—
15—44 years	—	1	2	—	6	1
45—64 years	2	1	2	2	—	—
65 years and over	—	1	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total all ages	4	3	4	2	20	1

TUBERCULOSIS

1

	Respiratory		Meninges & C.N.S.		Others	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—	1	—
15—24 years	—	1	—	—	—	1
25—44 years	2	2	—	—	—	2
45—64 years	2	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	1	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	3	3	—	—	—	—
Total all ages	7	7	—	—	1	3

Sanitary Circumstances

WATER SUPPLY:

The mains of the West Cheshire Water Board supply the entire area, and from them there is a plentiful supply of excellent water.

The supply is laid into the houses, with the following exception:—a bungalow and two cottages at Great Sutton served by one stand-pipe. A number of houses in the Parish of Ince also obtain water through stand-pipes, the remainder having a piped supply laid into the houses.

The water throughout the district is in a piped supply from the pumping stations at Hooton, Prenton and Mouldsworth; also the new Treatment Works at Great Sutton were brought into commission in January, 1958. Softening operations have been temporarily suspended at the Hooton Pumping Station, as well as at Prenton and Mouldsworth.

During the year 76 samples were taken for Bacteriological Examination and 13 samples for Chemical Analysis from the flamed tap in the softening house of the three pumping stations and the Treatment Works at Great Sutton.

The following are the results of a sample of water taken for bacteriological examination from the Treatment Works at Great Sutton on the 30th December, 1958, and this is a fair specimen of the average result from all 76 samples throughout the year, although in one instance a sample obtained from these works was unsatisfactory, in that it contained coliform organisms in appreciable number, including Bact. Coli.

This was of some concern to the Borough Council, who approached the Water Board upon the matter, and upon investigations being carried out by the Board it would appear that contamination was of an extraneous character, and was not representative of the water going into supply. Further samples obtained were satisfactory.

It is understood that apart from routine samples of water sent to an independent Analyst for examination, daily samples are also taken for bacteriological examination by the Board's own chemist and analyst.

Similarly appended is a copy of the analyst's report on the chemical analysis of a sample taken from the pumping station at Mouldsworth on the 29th January, 1958. All samples taken from the Water Board's pumping stations were hard in character, though not to a degree which could be considered unsatisfactory.

Bacteriological Report

on the

Examination of a Sample of Water

Received: 31st December, 1958.

From : WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

Labelled : Laboratory tap - Sutton Hall Treatment Works, Great Sutton.

Date: 30.12.58, 10.00 a.m.

Taken by: B. Charlton.

Witness: J. W. Atkinson.

Signed : Bruce Charlton.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in one day	...	...	7
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in two days	...	...	9
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 20°C. in three days	...	...	2
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation at 37°C. (Presumptive <i>Bacillus Coli</i> Test) Absent from 100 ml.			
Smallest quantity of water containing the <i>Bacillus Coli</i>	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the <i>B. Welchii</i> (<i>Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes</i>)	...		Absent from 100 ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of a very satisfactory standard of bacterial purity indicative of a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

5th January, 1959.

Chemical Analysis

on the

Examination of a Sample of Water

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 30th January, 1958, from WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD, labelled: Mouldsworth Pumping Station. Flamed tap near cottages.

Taken by: R. J. Elam. Witness: S. Crawford. Date: 29.1.58, 12 noon.

Chemical Results in parts per Million.

Appearance: Clear and bright.

Turbidity: Nil

Colour: Nil

Odour: Nil

pH 7.5

Free Carbon Dioxide: 14

Electric Conductivity: 260 1140 Total Solids: 760

Chlorine present as Chloride: 260 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 195

Hardness: Total 315 Carbonate 195 Non-Carbonate 120

Nitrate Nitrogen: 3.4 Nitrite Nitrogen: Less than 0.01

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.000 Oxygen Absorbed: 0.00

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.000 Residual Chlorine: 0.01

Metals: Iron 0.09, Zinc Absent, Manganese Absent, Copper Absent, Lead Absent.

REPORT

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, just on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character, but not excessively so, and has a high but not excessive content of mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

6th February, 1958.

The following information has been supplied by the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board.

1 Particulars of any new sources of public supply.

The new Treatment Works at Great Sutton was brought into commission in January, 1958. By December, 1958, approximately three million gallons per day was being pumped into supply from the Works.

2. Improvements to existing source of public supply.

Nil.

3. Any important extension of mains.

Within your Council's area further extensions of mains have been carried out on the North Whitby Estate and to certain private estates.

4. Have pipe supplies been satisfactory in quality and quantity?

Yes. Routine Chemical and Bacteriological analyses have been taken at regular intervals throughout the year and have been satisfactory.

5. Is any part of the district in need of an improved water supply?

The position in the Borough is satisfactory.

6. Information as to the resumption, or otherwise, of water softening treatment for domestic supply.

A large part of the Borough now receives River Dee water, which is softer than the borehole waters.

It is not possible to resume softening of borehole supplies during the year but it is the Board's policy to do so after reconstruction of the plant.

7. Non-Potable Supplies.

The new storage reservoirs at Ince has been completed.

The average consumption per head per day is estimated at the 1st April, 1958 at 99 gallons, made up as follows—

POTABLE WATER	Unmetered Supplies	...	...	32 gallons
	Metered Supplies	...	...	16 gallons
NON-POTABLE WATER	...	...	...	51 gallons
				99 gallons

During the year this figure rose to about 106 gallons per head per day by December, 1958.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Cheshire County Council has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Borough of Ellesmere Port, and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1958.

LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE BOROUGH OF ELLESmere PORT: YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958

Sample.	No. obtained.	No. reported against (adulterated, below standard, or otherwise incorrect).
Boracic Ointment	2	—
Coffee	1	—
Codeine Linctus	1	1
Camphorated Oil	3	—
Cheese	1	—
Chicklettes	1	—
Cream	1	—
Dried Skimmed Milk	1	1
Dripping	1	—
Desiccated Coconut	3	—
Flour	6	1
Fish Paste	1	—
Glycerine	1	—
Ground Nutmeg	1	—
Jam	1	—
Lemon Cheese	1	—
Liquid Paraffin	1	—
Lemon Curd	1	—
Milk	53	5
Margarine	3	—
Mixed Peel	1	1
Meat Paste	1	—
Orange Squash	1	—
Olive Oil	1	—
Prunes	1	—
Pepper	1	—
Soup Powders	1	—
Surgical Spirit	1	—
Spice, Mixed	1	—
Syrup of Figs	1	—
Stuffing	1	—
Steak Puddings	1	—
T.C.P.	1	—
Vinegar	1	—
TOTALS	98	9

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Particulars of samples not up to standard during the year ending 31st December, 1958:—

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample.</i>	<i>Result of Analysis.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
1.	Plain Flour.	Deficient in iron and Vit. B.	No action.
2.	Milk.	2.3% deficient in N.F.S.	Abnormal, no action.
3.	Codeine Linctus.	Deficient in codeine phosphate.	Label incorrect, Manufacturer approached.
4.	Milk.	1.1% deficient in S.N.F.	No action.
5.	Milk.	1.1% deficient in S.N.F.	No action.
6.	Mixed Peel.	100 p.p.m. SO ² permitted. 50 p.p.m. excess SO ²	Cautioned by letter.
7.	Milk.	45% deficient in Fat.	Cautioned.
8.	Milk Dried Skimmed.	Excess Lactic Acid.	Manufacturer cautioned 1.6% instead of 1% normally.
9.	Milk C.I.	7.5% deficient in M.F.	Cautioned by letter 23.10.58.

Annual Report
of the
Chief Public Health Inspector
For the Year 1958

To: THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS of
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF ELLESMORE PORT.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is once again a privilege for me to present this annual Report, for 1958, upon the environmental health services of the Borough for which the department is responsible.

The year proved to be busy and onerous, with staff sickness occurring during the early part, making it rather difficult to keep pace with current work. It was, however, pleasing that the members concerned returned fully recovered to good health.

A staff change is pending with the resignation of Mr. Carr, who takes up another appointment with a neighbouring authority, and this will for a time affect the smooth running of the department from an inspectorial point of view.

In addition to providing a Stand depicting food hygiene, at the Marriage, Home and Families Exhibition, the department participated with publicity material on a Stand allocated to the Council at the Careers Exhibition. Both were held in the Civic Hall, and a great deal of interest was shown in the Stands by the public.

Active attention has been paid to all branches of the service, and it is hoped a perusal of the Report will afford some indication of the activities and scope of the work undertaken.

I would like to express appreciation to the members of the Health Committee and Borough Council for the confidence and consideration shown to me, also the staff for their loyalty and endeavour, without whom this Report could not have been possible. I also desire to express appreciation to the Town Clerk and other Chief Officers for the help and support given to me during the year.

Yours faithfully,

E. TUFT,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Summary of Inspections

Housing

Housing in its numerous aspects has once again continued to exercise the close attention of the Health Committee and the department during the year under review.

This particular branch of the work in environmental hygiene will never lose its importance, whatever may be the current situation within the area of the Local Authority, for there are so many considerations that can be given to this statutory function as to require careful thought by those concerned in dealing with the responsibility affecting, as it does, the well-being of the people.

It is considered that on the whole, standard of housing throughout the Borough is good, notwithstanding there are a number of houses in the older parts of the area lacking in modern amenities.

In the field of Slum Clearance it must never be forgotten that the primary object is to remove conditions of housing which are considered to be detrimental to the health of the people in those houses, and that the initiative must of necessity come from the Local Authority. It is, therefore, incumbent at all times to ensure that the needs and wishes of the people who are to be displaced will receive adequate consideration in re-housing proposals to which they are more than justly entitled, and in respect of same may well have despaired of ever achieving. They are a priority in housing secondary to none.

Applications for Improvement Grants continue for the reasons previously mentioned in reports to be made only in respect of owner/occupied property, but with the impending legislation upon this matter, which it is understood will have far less stringent requirements than at present, it could well be that owners of tenanted property which are lacking in modern amenities will readily avail themselves of the opportunity not only to enhance the value of their houses by the installation of such amenities, but also to give those improvements to their tenants who no doubt for their part will be prepared to make a reasonable contribution in their rents.

It has been the policy over the past few years of one owner of a number of such type properties in the Borough to provide, without grant aid, modified forms of improvements, and these have been greatly appreciated by the tenants concerned.

Properly applied, the new measure could be of inestimable value in several parts of the Borough, thus affording satisfaction to everyone.

It is unfortunate that very little progress has been made in the scheme for the acquisition of sub-standard property in the Westminster Ward. To some extent it has impeded the work of the department in securing the carrying out of repairs to certain properties where owners have intimated agreement to sell their houses to the Corporation.

A draft scheme for eight houses as previously envisaged, together with an estimate of works of repair and improvements, were submitted to the Ministry for approval in principle. The proposals regarding the improvements were agreed upon, and the Council are now negotiating to complete the acquisition of the property when finally the work will be carried out after invitation by tender.

At the time of writing this Report a further scheme involving another eight houses is being prepared, in an endeavour to maintain some measure of continuity.

To carry through a scheme of this nature is very exacting, involving as it does a great deal of time and patience by responsible officers of the Council, and it is earnestly hoped the first group of houses will be completed during the coming year.

Arising from informal action taken by the Committee, two single cottages were demolished, with the tenants securing their own alternative accommodation. In one instance, however, it was agreed to provide a housing unit in the future should it be found necessary to do so for the domestic reasons given by the owners.

In consequence of the re-housing of tenants by the Borough Council, four informal undertakings were received and accepted in respect of the following houses:—

Cash Cottage, Whitby; 11 Church Street;
13 Ashfield Road North; and 15 Alexandra Street,
Ellesmere Port.

This procedure, whereby it is agreed that the house shall not again be used for human habitation unless and until it is rendered fit to the satisfaction of the Council, is to be commended, for it does ensure that such houses which are sub-standard and generally in poor state of repair will not again be used as living units until all requirements are fulfilled.

It is never intended the houses, which are outside the Slum Clearance Programme, shall be condemned for ultimate demolition, but that they be merely held over for an interim period until a scheme can be submitted.

Owners of three houses subject to such Undertakings are at present having works of repair and improvement carried out which on completion will prove most satisfactory.

The last remaining tenant in the No. 5 Clearance Area/Order — Union Street/Back Union Street — has been re-housed, and demolition of the property is in progress.

Re-housing in this locality is a real problem, and it is hoped progress will soon manifest itself by development of our first Clearance area site in Church Street/Queen Street.

In accordance with the Five Year Programme a report was submitted in respect of a terrace of four dwellings in the Sutton Ward, being 408/414 Chester Road, Little Sutton.

A Clearance Order was declared by the Council, and confirmation is awaited from the Ministry. No objections were made by the Owners to the proposal; in point of fact they have intimated their desire to afford the closest co-operation in the matter.

One cottage subject to undertaking was demolished during the year, and the site cleared.

Confirmation by the Ministry of Orders submitted have been received in respect of the following:—

Clearance Area/Compulsory Purchase Order No. 6
—Poole Ward (six houses);
Clearance Area/Compulsory Purchase Order No. 7
—Poole Ward (ten houses);
Clearance Area/Compulsory Purchase Order No. 9
—Sutton Ward (six houses);
Clearance Area/Order No. 8
—Poole Ward (three houses).

Schemes for the re-housing of these people in their own particular Ward is being prepared by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, and once again a hope is expressed that it will not be too far away in the future before it becomes an actual fact.

The importance of Slum Clearance has already been expressed, and whilst it is appreciated some delay is inevitable where compact schemes are concerned, too much delay completely destroys the operation of Slum Clearance and its evils. It is, of course, considered most essential to maintain in certain localities what may be described as the community life and setting of the village.

It is gratifying to report that the Council have in the past been most sympathetic towards their approach in re-housing proposals. In connection with improvement grants, apart from enquiries made, nine applications were received and approved by the Committee and Council. The amount of the grants being £1,501.

The sewerage scheme for part of the Village of Ince is now in progress and will, it is understood, be completed during 1959. Another appraisal of housing requirements for Monastery Row is necessary in view of the time which has elapsed since the property was first scheduled for demolition and the change of circumstances which is known to exist in one or two instances.

Detailed inspections have been carried out in twenty-one cases following applications by sitting tenants to purchase their Corporation house. Several of the tenants completed the repairs as shewn in the schedule before the sale was completed.

Inspections have continued to be made in respect of applications to the Corporation for an advance under the Housing Acts to acquire privately owned property. This arrangement, whereby applicants must complete all necessary repairs before an advance is made is considered very satisfactory, and does ensure the dwellings are brought to a good state of repair. The number of houses so inspected totalled twenty-five.

The number of Corporation houses constructed during the year, from figures as supplied by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, was 375. This again shews a slight increase over the previous year and favourably reflects upon the waiting period for applicants. A scheme for the re-housing of overspill from the City of Liverpool is actively being undertaken, and may well be in operation when this Report is published. One hundred and seventy-seven houses were erected by private enterprise, being an increase of 60 over the previous year.

Cases of overcrowding, or application for housing priority in respect of other health reasons, are investigated and reported upon to the Housing (Estates) Sub-Committee from time to time, as so directed by them.

In this connection, twenty-six cases were so investigated, and of this number fifteen were offered Corporation accommodation.

Co-operation with the Housing Manager and his staff has continued throughout the year, resulting in a team spirit which is all essential in the complex problem of housing.

In respect of works of repair, 212 informal notices, together with 14 Abatement Notices, were served upon Owners of domestic property, within the provisions of the Public Health Act in connection with the existence of Statutory Nuisances. The notices, with one exception, were complied with, although it was necessary to issue a Warning Letter in three instances intimating that legal proceedings would be instituted unless the notice, which had been served, was completed without delay. Such letters are only sent

after the time stated in the notice has expired without the work being commenced. The remaining case concerns a house in the Westminster Ward, and is being offered to the Corporation for acquisition in accordance with their scheme for sub-standard property in that area.

No work was carried out by the Corporation during the year in exercise of default powers.

A great deal of housing repair work has been carried out by Owners through informal action by the department, for in the main, property Owners and Agents do endeavour to meet their responsibilities to carry out any necessary repairs whenever they find it possible to do so.

In connection with the operation of the Rent Act, 1957, thirty-five applications were received for a certificate of disrepair. In respect of these, twenty-seven Undertakings were submitted and accepted. Eight certificates of disrepair were issued to the tenants in the remaining cases.

In addition, nine applications were received and approved by Committee for certificates as to remedying of defects which Landlord had undertaken to remedy. The works of repair had in each instance been completed and clear certificates were issued.

Towards the close of the year this work had considerably reduced, and only isolated applications are now being received.

The number of dustbins supplied to property during the year was 937, of which 114 were supplied subject to an annual charge being made upon the property. This action is only taken as a result of the non-compliance with an informal notice served upon the Owner, requiring him to provide a dustbin within fourteen days. The total number of bins so supplied since the scheme was inaugurated in June, 1950, to the 31st December, 1958, is 779. This is considered to be most satisfactory.

As mentioned in last year's Report, Annual Charges for dustbins were increased at the 1st April, 1957, from 5/- to 7/6d. in consequence of a new Order made by Parliament.

The type of dustbin in use in the Borough is the B.S.S.2½ cubic feet.

Apart from letters of complaint received requesting an inspection of premises, 933 verbal complaints were made at the office. This shows an increase over the previous year. It does not include the many enquiries made to the department for advice, etc., in respect of such items as arise within the provisions of the Housing Acts, or other matters of a character affecting our work.

Five hundred and sixteen applications were dealt with for Search Certificates by means of memoranda through the Town Clerk's Department.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS:

In compliance with the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, nine applications were received for licences to erect or station and use moveable dwellings for human habitation. Licences were granted in each instance and made subject to certain sanitary conditions being observed as set out in each licence. The total number of caravans in the district used for living purposes is nine licensed and two unlicensed. It is urged for various reasons that action be taken in accordance with Planning Powers for the two unlicensed caravans before any approach is made from the public health aspect.

Great care is exercised to ensure that control over this particular problem is maintained as far as it is possible to do so, otherwise it would soon become out of hand. On several occasions prompt action has had to be taken to have removed from out of the Borough caravans which were not at all satisfactory.

In the main, licences granted are in respect of applicants who are on contract work in the Borough and require accommodation for a temporary or limited period.

Food

The survey of all food premises, previously outlined, was completed during the year, and fifty informal notices were served requiring attention to various matters.

All sections of the food trade have now been fully informed of the requirements contained in the Food Hygiene Regulations, and although there is in the main a ready willingness to co-operate with the department there can be no question of a slackening of our activities in this important work.

During the year a number of new projects have been completed embracing either new premises or conversion of existing. In all instances, owners and occupiers are advised to contact the department before embarking on any scheme of alterations, so that suggestions can be made in the very early stages. This has been found beneficial to all concerned.

Plans deposited with the Council for new buildings, which include shops, etc., are by arrangement with the Borough Engineer and Surveyor submitted for observations before approval by the Planning Committee. The system has proved to be invaluable, for on more than one occasion amendments have been required necessitating structural alterations which would not have been very easily adapted when once the building had been constructed. Design of food shops is very much dependent upon the type of trade envisaged.

It is the intention of the Borough Council to construct a number of shops, which will include food businesses, on their North Whitby Housing Estate, and the ready co-operation of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor in this matter in meeting the wishes of the department is appreciated.

The self-service type of business has further increased, and some excellent schemes from a food hygiene point of view are in operation.

Whilst acknowledgment must be paid to the co-operation received from all sections of the food industry, the considered opinion remains that to ensure the standard of hygiene is maintained throughout the Borough, routine inspection is essential, and in this connection 818 visits were paid during the year under review.

In respect of registration, twelve applications were received. They related to the sale of ice-cream, were considered satisfactory and licences granted in each instance. Registration, as provided

in the Food and Drugs Act, is restricted to certain food rooms in the premises as may be applicable to the business for which registration is sought.

There are now 130 premises in the district registered within the provisions of the Act, and comprise: Storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream, 71; manufacture and sale of ice cream, 3; preparation, storage and sale of preserved foods, 56.

Registration of three premises were cancelled during the year and removed from the register. Two concerned occupancy and change of business, whilst the remaining one was in connection with the condition of premises. In this instance, following a routine inspection, it was ascertained extensive works were required to be carried out, and following representation made to the occupiers by the Borough Council the food business was closed.

There has been an increased activity in the use of the mobile shop, and six applications were received for registration of Hawkers of Food within the provisions contained in the Cheshire County Council Act, 1953. The total number so registered is twenty-two, made up as follows: Bread and confectionery, 5; greengrocery, 8; grocery, 1; meat, 1; fish, 2; ice cream, 5. This number does not include the use of vehicles by tradespeople having shops within the Borough who, therefore, trade from open shops and do not require registration, or the number of vehicles actually in use, as some firms who are registered operate more than one vehicle.

This type of food trade now seems to have become a permanent feature, and the staff must remain ever alert to ensure that there is compliance with a satisfactory hygienic standard as can be properly enforced. The operation of the food bye-laws provide a useful adjunct to enforce certain requirements not included in the regulations.

Regular inspection of food stalls on the Council's six-day market has been maintained, and internal decoration of the stalls carried out.

Legal proceeding were instituted against the occupier of premises following a full investigation, arising as a result of a complaint received from a member of the public of the purchase of a bar of chocolate which had been gnawed by a rodent. The case was proved and defendant fined £2. Action was taken under the Food Bye-laws.

FOOD HYGIENE:

The Clean Food Joint Consultative Committee has continued to play its important role, and two meetings have been held.

Members of this Committee represent all branches of the food trades, and the Chairman for the year under review remains as previously, Mr. F. Burrows, Master Butcher, Station Road, Ellesmere Port.

It is considered not out of place to include in this Report the outcome of a special meeting which took place at the close of the year, when the Committee decided to hold a Food Hygiene Publicity Meeting on the 23rd March, 1959, and the Borough Council agreed to the use of the Civic Hall for this purpose.

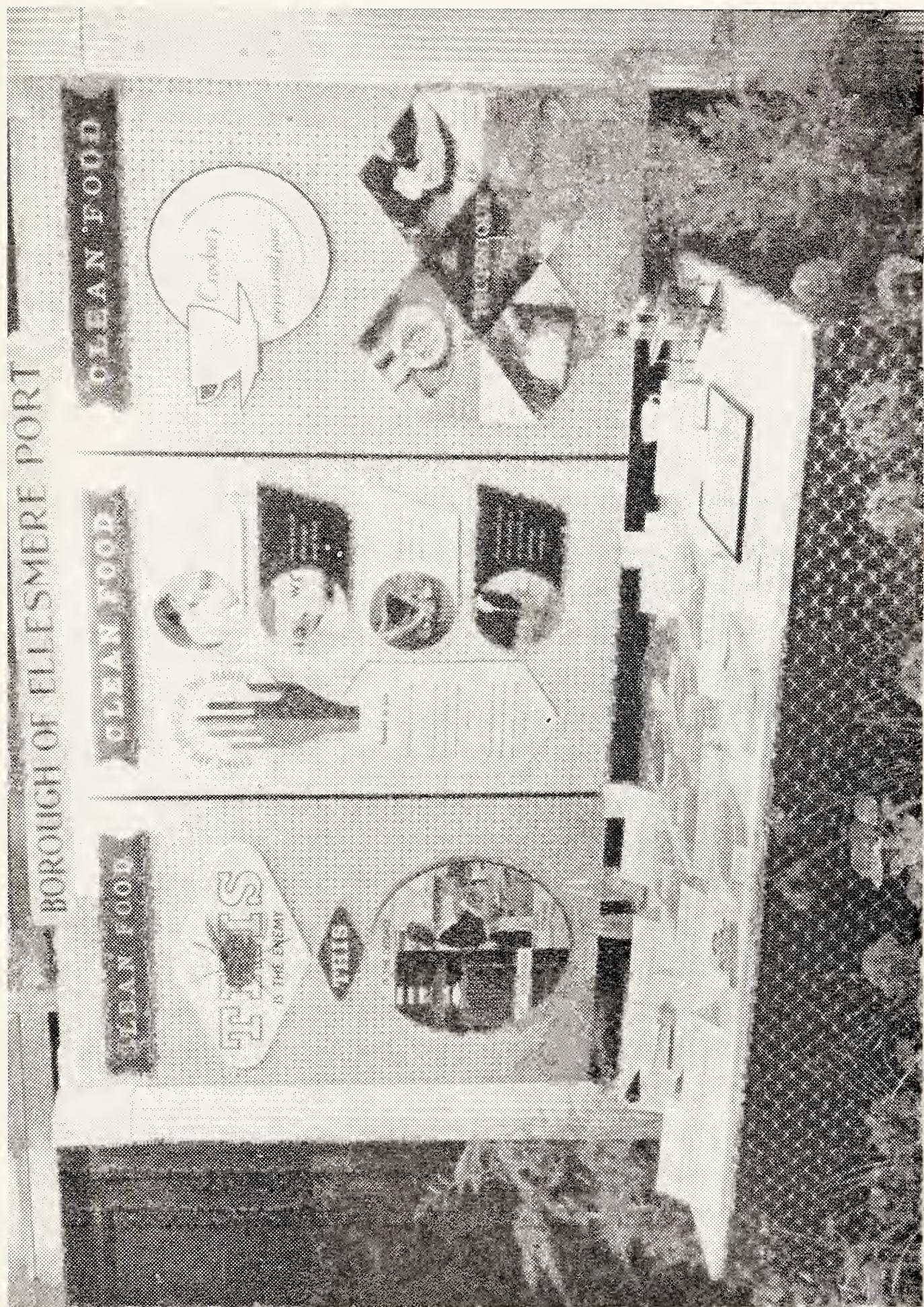
It was proposed that attendance at the meeting should be in the form of an invitation, and a circular letter to this effect was sent to management of industrial undertakings having canteen facilities, for their supervisory and senior staff to attend. A similar letter was also addressed to the County Director of Education and the Divisional Education Officer in respect of school canteens, in addition to occupiers of retail food businesses. At the unanimous wish of the Committee, Mr. Morley Parry, Food Hygiene Advisory Officer, Ministry of Health, was invited to give an address, which would then be followed by the showing of a film depicting food hygiene.

The Worshipful the Mayor and Mayoress attended, accompanied by several members of the Committee and Council. Response to the meeting was most gratifying, there being some 350 personnel attending, representing every branch of the food industry together with a limited representation from the Women's Organisations, and the support and help received from all directions was much appreciated.

The success of this venture was, to say the least, stimulating and reflects great credit for the interest shown by all concerned, particularly the food personnel, in the work they carry out—and apparently do so with an aim to achieve a satisfactory hygienic standard.

An expression of appreciation was made by the Chairman, Health Committee, to Mr. Morley Parry for the support and interest he had shown by his presence at the meeting, and for the address so ably given and readily understood.

In accordance with usual procedure two series of lectures were undertaken for new entrants into the food service and for those who had not previously completed the full course of lectures. Certificates were issued to forty personnel.



Food Hygiene Stand, Marriage Home and Family Exhibition, 16th/18th September, 1958

An item of interest and of pleasure to the Committee concerned correspondence received from the Department of Health, Scotland, enquiring as to the scope and nature of the activities in Food Hygiene undertaken in the Borough, which it was felt would be of some assistance to the Ministry in Scotland, as apparently new food hygiene regulations were in course of preparation. Detailed information was readily supplied, together with copies of the food hygiene certificates issued to food handlers and occupiers of food premises.

Whilst every effort is made to further the aims of food hygiene in the trade, more support is required from the general public. With the advent of self-service, where more food than ever is offered for sale, wrapped or pre-packed, it is unfortunately becoming a common sight to see the articles being subjected to minute examination involving patting and squeezing which surely is not necessary and certainly not conducive to good keeping qualities of the food.

Advantage was taken during the year to obtain from the Ministry a supply of food hygiene educational publicity material. Posters and poster-strips were distributed to selected premises throughout the Borough, in addition to the use of notice boards for public display.

An invitation from the Vicar of Ellesmere Port was readily accepted to provide a stand on food hygiene at his Marriage, Home and Family Exhibition held in the Civic Hall during September of the year. Material for the stand was loaned from the Ministry of Health, through Mr. Morley Parry, and a number of specimens were obtained from their laboratory at Birkenhead. Literature was available on the stand for members of the public, and other items of interest prepared by the department were on view. A photograph of the stand is shewn on the accompanying page.

LICENSED PREMISES:

The survey of this type of premises has not been carried out, although it is hoped that a start will be made early in the coming year. It is now seven years since the first one was undertaken, and although several schemes have been completed as a result of action then taken, it is known there still remains some finality to be reached in one or two instances.

Five inspections were made involving inspection of work in progress at two houses.

RESTAURANTS, CANTEENS, ETC.

Routine visits, as found possible, have been paid to this type of food business, and in several instances works of improvement carried out. Altogether 127 inspections were made.

Amended layout plans were submitted and approved for a large canteen at an industrial undertaking, the original proposal having previously been subject to action by the department and reported upon in a previous annual Report.

Representations have been made in two cases and discussions are taking place regarding canteens which are considered not being capable of adequately complying with the requirements relative, or conducive, to a good standard of food hygiene. It is hoped these discussions will be happily concluded with agreement being reached for the construction of new buildings by the Companies concerned.

The requirements by statute only provide a basic criterion for buildings and personnel below which an offence is committed, so that to strictly adhere to this rule can and does result in a poor type of premises being used which is certainly not in keeping with modern standards. This view has been expressed by the department on one or two occasions where management do not appear to appreciate the necessity to undertake large scale schemes perhaps involving the provision of new buildings, but rather query the fact of what contraventions are taking place. It is certainly not a progressive outlook and fortunately not generally encountered.

The retention of a sample meal for twenty-four hours at canteens has once again been generally complied with, and proved invaluable at two establishments where outbreaks of gastro-enteritis took place involving a number of personnel. Despite extensive investigations the causative agent remained unconfirmed.

It has been found necessary during the year to once again point out the dangers which are associated in the re-heating of made-up meat dishes in their relationship with food poisoning.

In connection with bacteriological examination of washing-up and rinse waters, thirty-eight samples were submitted. In addition to this, eight crockery swabs were also obtained.

The operation of the double-sink method of washing crockery, etc., is still the policy strongly advocated by the department. This consists of the preliminary washing of utensils in one sink at 110°F. or thereabouts, followed by immersion in another at a temperature of between 170°F. and 180°F.

This method of operation has manifested itself where samples of washing-up water are not satisfactory, but cancelled out by a satisfactory report on the rinse water.

The joint inspection of certain school canteens within the Borough with representatives of the County Council have been carried out with certain recommendations agreed upon by both sides. It is hoped that the matters raised will soon be confirmed by the responsible Committee of the County Council, together with a date fixed for their completion.

The co-operation received to date in this connection is much appreciated.

FOOD INSPECTION:

Sixty-six special visits were paid to food premises at the request of owners to inspect foodstuffs, and the following goods were rejected, being unfit for human consumption:—

Meat	96 tins	Fish	4 tins
Soup	4 tins	Fruit	66 tins
Tomatoes	4 tins	Carrots	1 tin
Tomato Juice	1 tin	Salmon	4 tins
Milk	3 tins	Peas	19 tins
Spaghetti	1 tin	Beans	4 tins
Lemon Curd	1 tin	Swiss Cheese 13 x 6-ozs. pkts	
Cooked Ham .	686-lbs. 9-ozs.	Bacon	7-lbs.
Black Puddings	12-lbs. 6-ozs.	Savoury Ducks	9 lbs.
Cod Fillets	1 stone	Halibut Fillets	1 stone

In each instance the rejected food was disposed of under the supervision of the department.

MEAT INSPECTION:

The private slaughterhouse at Ledsham, in the Sutton Ward, has continued in operation and 100 per cent. meat inspection is carried out. Visits are paid during the period slaughtering is taking place, and this has necessitated duty at week-ends by the inspec-torial staff.

Several butchers from outside the Borough use the premises in addition to local interests, and several local butchers slaughter animals outside the area.

It will be necessary during the coming year for considera-tion to be given relative to renewal of the licence for the slaughter-house, and in the light of new legislation will require the close attention of the Committee being paid to this matter.

The following table relates to meat inspection carried out at this slaughterhouse during the year under review:—

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	740	68	47	3898	1575
Number inspected	740	68	47	3898	1575
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i> —					
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	Nil	1	1	3	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	3	Nil	83	94
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	9.86	14.71	2.13	2.21	6.60
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> —					
Whole Carcasses condemned	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	38	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.14	8.82	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i> —					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and total condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The total weight rejected was 2-tons 11-cwts. 2-qrs. 2-lbs.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS:

Four slaughterman's licences were granted during the year.

ICE - CREAM:

Forty-four samples of ice-cream and five lolly-ices were taken for examination from all dealers and manufacturers during the year.

Sampling on a rota basis has been maintained, whereby traders are visited at irregular intervals.

Of the forty-four samples obtained and examined in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry, thirty-seven were placed in Grade I, six in Grade II, and one in Grade IV.

Action was taken in respect of the sample placed in Grade IV, which was from a producer situate outside the Borough, and further samples subsequently obtained.

The five lolly-ice samples were classified satisfactory.

There are two establishments in the Borough who manufacture by the "hot mix" method, and one by complete "cold-mix"

Attention has been paid to itinerant ice-cream dealers to ensure their vehicles are maintained to standard in accordance with the code of practice in operation for this type of business.

MILK SUPPLY:

There are two registered dairies and forty-three distributors within the Borough. In addition, two distributors bring milk into the area from adjacent districts, as well as four registered wholesalers. These total figures remain the same as for the previous year with one registration having been revoked and one new distributor being added.

Milk sampling has continued to be carried out on a rota basis and thirty-three samples were obtained and sent to the bacteriologist for examination, each being examined in accordance with the designation applicable to the sample.

All thirty-three samples so examined were satisfactory with the exception of one which failed the Phosphatase Test.

Five samples were submitted for biological test and proved negative.

Ninety-eight dealers' licences were issued by the Borough Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. This is an increase of one over the previous year. There were no supplementary licences granted.

All milk supplies obtained by retailers are already bottled or in containers in accordance with the regulations for sale to canteens, etc.

The Borough, it will be recalled, is part of a specified area whereby all milk sold by retail must be milk under special Designation.

Atmospheric Pollution

The problem of atmospheric pollution has continued to receive close attention by Committee and Council, and the scope and activities of the department in this work has increased.

So much factual publicity has been given by Press, radio and television to the evils associated with smog conditions, and of the resultant ill-effects of pollution generally upon the health of the populace, that the most ardent opponent of doing anything in the matter must surely have now been convinced of the necessity for doing something. The emptiness of that adage "the smoking chimney is a sign of wealth and prosperity" has gone for ever.

The Borough Council, as foreshadowed in last year's report, made their first Smoke Control Order embracing a part of the North Whitby Housing Estate in Grange Ward. Confirmation of the Order has been received from the Ministry, and will come into operation as from the 1st August, 1959. The area in question covers 120 acres and will ultimately contain some 793 houses, several shops and other buildings of a domestic character located in a modern housing estate. At the time of the making of the Order the area contained 639 houses, one school and an old people's home. The co-operation received from the County Council in the latter case relative to alterations to the furnaces to comply with requirements has been most satisfactory.

A great deal of publicity work has been undertaken in the area, both by the department and nationalised bodies, and it is of some significance that no formal objections were made to the proposal. This will stand as a wonderful example for the future, and reflects most favourably upon the willingness and public spirit of the people to co-operate with the Council in this important health measure.

Apart from visits paid to the houses, tenants of property in the area were at all times kept fully informed by means of circular letters as to the whole nature of the matter, including what was entailed by the making of a Smoke Control Order.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government issued a circular in January, 1959, asking Councils in black areas to consider their domestic smoke problem as a whole if, of course, they have not already done so, and decide on the smoke control orders that are needed—in what order of priority and how many years it is likely to take to complete the work. They should then, it is added, prepare a phased programme covering the next five years and submit their conclusions to the Minister by the end of June, 1959. The Borough is within the black areas, and a programme

is therefore being prepared for submission to Health Committee at an early date. Black areas are those as shewn on the map in the interim report of the Beaver Committee, and may be described as areas in which urban and industrial density produce large amounts of pollution.

A survey of principal industrial boiler plant was carried out during the year and a report presented to Committee.

The object of the survey was to obtain information on each particular type of plant; to study the general working conditions of same; to give advice as necessary regarding the requirements of the Clean Air Act, and to point out the necessity for co-operation in the prevention of any undue smoke emission.

The number of premises visited totalled thirty-six, covering approximately ninety-seven boiler plants with detailed information in respect of each, and to afford some indication of the extent of the industrial development at the present time nearly one million tons of fuel of various kinds is burnt annually.

Without exception, factory managements have intimated their desire to maintain a close relationship with the department in a common aim to prevent any smoke nuisance. In point of fact, as a result of the survey, several undertakings are now using a smokeless fuel in instances where the position was not considered satisfactory.

The position as a whole, bearing in mind the extent of the industrial area, that several installations are of a very extensive character, the problem of smoke emission from industry is not considered of a serious nature, and with the implementation of several new schemes which are foreshadowed, the position should further improve.

One application was received for prior approval, which was granted, and four notices given of proposal to instal a furnace.

It is considered that some progress has been made regarding control of smoke emission from locomotives in relation to shunting operations, particularly in the Westminster Ward, although the position must still be kept under observation to ensure progress is maintained. The most satisfactory solution would be replacement by diesels.

Smokeless fuel is now in use at the Municipal Offices.

The Daily Smoke Filter and Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus has now been in continuous operation for a period of twelve months and is sited at the Municipal Offices in the Public Health Inspector's Department.

Recordings of pollution are made at the same time each day, and the reading or measurements obtained are submitted at monthly intervals to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research with whom the Council have agreed to co-operate in this matter. Results of measurements are thus received from the Department taken at other stations throughout the country, and these have proved of value in making comparisons as to the degree of pollution shewn by the operation of these filters and volumetric apparatus.

The results of measurements for the full year are shewn on the next page, and whilst they compare favourably with some areas they shew a greater degree of pollution than others which happily are in the minority. It must, of course, be borne in mind that only some 309 authorities in the country operate this type of apparatus.

The operation of this instrument will enable an indication to be made over a period of time as to the improvement or otherwise in the level of pollution within the particular area, and it is hoped to instal a further instrument during the coming year. It is considered that instrumentation is the only accurate means of assessing the degree of pollution, and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research are endeavouring to encourage more local authorities to operate the type of instrument similar to that in the Borough.

In conjunction with the Principal of the College of Further Education, Eastham, industry was circularised as to the possibility of again holding a course of lectures in Smoke Abatement and Fuel Efficiency during the winter months. The number of enrolments was so small as not to warrant a course being held. Difficulties were shift work and, of course, that many attended our previous series of lectures.

Advantage has been taken to give talks to various organisations in respect of the aims and reasons for smoke control, and it would appear that the public generally are prepared to co-operate closely; in point of fact, at one meeting questions were asked as to how soon it would be before particular areas of the Borough were included in smoke control.

The Borough Council have continued the arrangements made with the Liverpool Observatory and Tidal Institute whereby data in respect of wind directions, etc., is received. This information has been found to be most useful.

Odour emission has, on several occasions, given rise to complaint, but the position has much improved over recent years. The Alkali Works Inspector was informed in each instance of the complaints, and with the extensions now made to registerable processes within the Alkali, Etc., Works Regulation Act, it is considered more essential than ever that close co-operation between that officer and the Local Authority shall be promoted.

DAILY SMOKE FILTER and SO₂ APPARATUS

SMOKE CONCENTRATION MILLIGRAMS PER 100 Cu. Metres

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Municipal Offices, Ellesmere Port	Highest Daily Mean	50.5	31.7	44.5	30.4	12.8	13.8	12.0	8.0	13.3	18.1	61.3
Ellesmere Port No. 1	Average	15.0	9.4	12.6	8.1	3.9	5.7	3.5	3.0	4.6	5.5	24.3
Ellesmere Port	Lowest	2.2	1.2	1.9	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.2	8.4
		41										

SO₂ PARTS PER 100 MILLION

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Municipal Offices, Ellesmere Port	Highest Daily Average	22.1	6.9	14.6	12.5	5.5	6.5	9.4	5.6	7.7	4.7	9.0
Ellesmere Port No. 1	Average	6.0	2.8	4.6	4.0	2.1	2.5	2.3	1.3	1.4	1.8	3.8
Ellesmere Port	Lowest	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.5	0.5	Nil

General

NOISE:

Consultations have continued to be made with two industrial undertakings in respect of complaint of noise nuisance, one of which has been the subject of detailed report to Committee, and mentioned in the last two years' annual Reports. In this particular instance a survey has now been completed by the National Physical Laboratory at the instigation of the Company concerned, and an assurance received from them that the matter is being actively pursued. Confirmation of certain technical recommendations is awaited.

There can be little doubt of the sincerity in dealing with this problem, which is of a complex character.

In the other instance the nuisance is very local in character, and action by the firm concerned is being taken which it is hoped will eliminate any further need for complaint.

DRAINS AND SEWERAGE:

There are two sewage disposal works in the Borough. The works at Little Stanney were erected during the year 1933, and designed for a population of 20,000, whilst the disposal works at Sunnyside, Pontoon, known as the Town Works, are designed for a population of 7,000. An area is drained under the Manchester Ship Canal to the River Mersey, without treatment.

Consideration is being given by the Borough Council to the question of disposal of sewage from the Rivacre Valley Sewer and in respect of other sewerage matters for which Consultants have been engaged. The problem is of considerable importance, and requires an early decision to be arrived upon in view of the urgency of the matter.

The drainage scheme for a part of the village of Ince has received Ministerial consent, and at the time of writing this Report work is in progress. Action must now be taken by the department for conversion of pails to water closets as are affected by the Scheme, and with this in view provision was made in estimates for the year 1959/60.

Further complaints have been received regarding pollution which takes place outside the area, and unfortunately drains into the Borough in the Ledsham area of Sutton Ward.

Steps have been taken by the department to prevent any pollution of a nuisance character which may emanate within the district, and it is hoped, as expressed previously, that some commonsense will prevail by those concerned to abate the nuisance, which otherwise must receive further attention by the Committee.

Complaints of choked house drains are referred in the first instance to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department, when arrangements are made for the drain to be plunged or rodded —free of charge if proper access is available. Should this not prove successful in clearing the drain, then notice is served upon the owner concerned.

Sixty-two informal notices were served during the year in respect of defective drainage, etc.; all were complied with.

No flooding occurred of any houses during the year in the Hooton Cross Road area of Poole Ward. The measures undertaken by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor appear to be proving successful.

RIVERS AND STREAMS:

The small River Gowy is within the Borough boundary and is bordered by oil works along its entire length in this Borough. It is tide-locked where it is syphoned below the Manchester Ship Canal to discharge into the River Mersey.

A great deal of pollution is evident, due to trade effluents from neighbouring industries.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

The greater part of the district is provided with clean water closets, but on the outskirts of the town, where sewers are not available, some pails, cesspools and septic tanks are in use.

The conversion of pails at Ince will, it is hoped, be commenced during the coming year.

A grant of £17/-/- was made in respect of one conversion to a cottage in Central Ward.

Inspections have continued of small sewage disposal plants with maintenance works carried out after service of informal notices.

A service is in operation, under the control of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department for the regular cleansing of pail closets in the village of Ince.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

This service is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department. Modern mechanised vehicles are in use, and disposal is by tipping.

All premises in the district utilise the standard dustbin, and the Department enforces renewals, etc., together with the provision of dustbins to new houses and other premises.

Co-operation has been maintained with the Department in the disposal of refuse at the Pooltown Road tip. Routine disinfection against fly-breeding, etc., is carried out by the use of a pressure blower.

Conditions prevailing at one industrial refuse tip have, on occasion, again caused concern, particularly in respect of indiscriminate tipping.

Three other sites are in use, with two being quite satisfactory, whilst the remainder has not much improved over the year.

It has always been appreciated that industry has a problem in the disposal of waste materials; nevertheless, there is an obligation it shall be carried out efficiently and without nuisance.

SWIMMING POOL:

The Rivacre Swimming Pool is owned by the Corporation, and has a swimming area of 1,567 square yards.

The water passes through a continuous bath purification plant, which embodies two horizontal air-scoured pressure filters, with a circulation pump capable of circulating the total contents of the pool in a period of eight hours.

Several samples of water were taken by the Department, during the height of the season, and these proved to be satisfactory. It is now possible for break-point chlorination to be maintained.

Difficulties have been experienced during peak periods regarding litter, which seems to be a very difficult problem. The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has, however, in operation a special arrangement for its collection during these particular periods.

SCHOOLS:

At the close of the year there were five County Council Secondary Modern, fourteen Primary, and four Denominational Schools in the Borough.

Three schools also use rooms at other building to accommodate overspill.

All schools are provided with individual water closet accommodation, etc., and washing facilities.

Head Teachers are notified of the occurrence of cases of infectious diseases in order to secure the exclusion of contacts for the necessary period.

During the vacation, and at other times when found necessary, the schools are thoroughly disinfected.

PET ANIMALS ACT:

There are two premises in the Borough licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Act, both in respect of shops, and are satisfactory.

SHOPS ACT, 1950:

The Borough Council is the Local Authority, for the purpose of the administration of the whole of the provisions of this Act, and 130 inspections were made during the course of the year under review.

Difficulty is still experienced in connection with Sunday trading, and complaints made by the Trade in respect of one or two traders having a mixed business, and opening on Sunday, were investigated. Several warnings have been issued.

The only effective remedy to prevent this unfair trading, and that is what it really amounts to, is that legislation should provide for a serious curtailment of the list of exempted goods that can be normally sold outside these hours, when the shop is closed for other transactions.

FACTORIES:

The tables on the following pages refer to the inspections carried out in respect of factory premises, and whilst the number show an increase over the previous year, the position is not considered satisfactory.

No applications were received for approval of a water supply to industrial premises.

Samples of water are obtained at periodical intervals for routine examination at three undertakings where approval has previously been granted.

At one of these undertakings, where the supply is of an extensive and complex character, reports involving some eighteen samples weekly are received.

Close liaison has been maintained with this Company in surveillance of water supply, and a comprehensive programme has been agreed in relation to sampling.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections.

Premises	M/c. Line (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)	M/c. Line (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	15	2	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	109	36	7	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	6	2	—	—	3
TOTAL		130	40	7	—	

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	M/c. Line (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c. Line (8)
		Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (5)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	10	1	1	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)		6	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	..	7	1	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of Floors (S.6)		8	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		9	1	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient						
(b) Unsuitable or defective		10	5	1	1	10
(c) Not separate for sexes		11	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	12
TOTAL	..		17	2	2	—

Pest Control

RODENT CONTROL:

Three rodent operatives are employed with a charge-hand, whose part-time services are chargeable to rodent control. This staff has worked very efficiently during the year, and credit is due to them for the services rendered.

The spirit of co-operation built up over the years has continued, particularly with industry, who are fully aware adequate control of their premises against rodent infestation is an all-essential service. This goodwill results in the Local Authority being able to discharge in this connection its statutory functions without friction, and is greatly appreciated.

Annual and clearance contracts have been maintained at the same level as the previous year, so that the staff have been fully occupied with inspection work, and the taking of remedial measures.

The free service has continued in respect of rat infestation at domestic property, and advice is given whenever requested in any instance affecting mice.

12,994 inspections were carried out by the rodent operatives, with 1,223 poisoning campaigns undertaken. The total amount of "poison take", i.e.: poison and bait combined, on all campaigns was: Zinc Phosphide 20-lbs. $11\frac{1}{2}$ -ozs.; Red Squill 2-lbs. 4-ozs., Arsenic 11-lbs. $3\frac{1}{4}$ -ozs.; Mafantu $14\frac{3}{4}$ -ozs.; Warfarin 0.1 17-lbs. $2\frac{3}{4}$ -ozs.; Warfarin 0.5 56-lbs. $9\frac{1}{4}$ -ozs.

The formula prepared by the Ministry for the calculation of the estimated kill of the common rat when Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic are used shows that in respect of these two poisons in campaigns, a total kill of 1,276 is arrived at for the year.

A test baiting of 10 per cent. of sewer manholes in the entire Borough were baited, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry, and "no takes" recorded.

This was considered satisfactory by the Divisional Rodent Officer, and no further work in this connection was undertaken during the financial year 1958/59.

The problem of rat-proofing the sewers having storm-water overflows, still requires attention.

INSECT PESTS:

Several treatments have been carried out at industrial and other premises in relation to infestation by ants, cockroaches, etc., such work being undertaken on a Clearance or annual Contract basis. This has proved to be quite satisfactory.

In respect of infestation with bed-bugs, the number of houses dealt with during the year were as follows:—

(a) Corporation houses	...	...	...	3
(b) Other houses	...	...	...	3
(c) Number disinfested	...	...	...	6
(d) Total visits	.	...	...	12

Infested houses were treated with liquid and powder forms of D.D.T. with satisfactory results. It is not generally considered now necessary to have woodwork removed in the bedrooms to facilitate disinfestation, due to the residual effect of D.D.T.

Spraying with a suitable insecticide has been carried out following complaints received of nuisance by mosquito and midge breeding. The problem has been accentuated due to an increase of residential development in certain parts of the Borough, and may well result in an increasing amount of control having to be exercised. Wherever possible, cleansing of ditches has been undertaken by the owners.

Two infestations of premises occurred in respect of Pharid fly, and were extremely difficult to completely eradicate.

Annual Report on Health Services of South-West Cheshire Division for the Year 1958

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the annual Report on the work of the Divisional Health Committee for the year 1958.

The Committee has held six meetings during the year, the average attendance being 14 members out of a total of 33.

The Division includes the Borough of Ellesmere Port and the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin. The total population at 1st April according to the Registrar General's latest figures (mid-1957) is 80,030, and the area is 115,414 acres.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination again occupied much of the time of the staff. In the autumn the Government extended the scheme so as to include a third inoculation to complete the individual Vaccination, and also extended the age group to all young adults between the ages of 15 and 25.

Vaccination figures against smallpox show a sharp rise, especially in the Ellesmere Port area. This started in the spring, when two cases of smallpox occurred in the neighbouring Borough of Bebington. Apart from considerable public alarm locally a great number of residents of Ellesmere Port who worked in or had visited Bebington were indirect contacts. There was much activity by members of the health staff in tracing suspected contacts and arranging for extra Vaccination Sessions.

In the autumn the Divisional Health Committee were actively associated with the Government publicity drive in relation to Accidents in the Home. The month of November was devoted to intense propaganda to make the public fully aware of the accident dangers that lurk in the home, and especially the risks from burns and scalds.

Increased attention was focussed during the year on the various services available for handicapped persons. These include not only the aged and infirm, but also younger persons disabled either physically or mentally. Already extensive services, apart from those provided for the Blind and Deaf, are available from County Council resources. These include Home Nursing, Domestic Help, loan of Nursing Equipment, Foul Laundry collection, Occupation Centres, etc. There are also various forms of aid operated by such organisations as the W.V.S., e.g.: Meals on Wheels.

In other directions, the Ambulance Service showed increased activity with greater number of patients carried and increased mileage, whilst there was greater demand also for domestic helps. There was a reduction in the sales of Ministry of Health Welfare Foods.

The clerical staff had another difficult year in trying to keep abreast with the widening scope of the services operated by the Division. The administrative arrangements were, however, successfully maintained with the help of a temporary additional clerk.

There was a marked reduction in the number of Measles and Whooping Cough cases notified, in comparison with the previous year. Other Infectious Diseases showed very little variation either way.

I would like once again to express my appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the various Voluntary Helpers at Clinics and Welfare Food Centres throughout the Division.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

South-West Cheshire Divisional Health Committee

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958

N.H.S. Act, 1946 (Section 22)

—Care of Mothers and Young Children

A — MOTHERS' CLINICS

					New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Ante-Natal	...	...	...	...	307	2245
Post-Natal	...	...	...	...	117	141
Dental :						
Pre-Natal	...	...	...	...	—	—
Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	—	—
Dentures Supplied	...	...	...	...	—	—

B — YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS

					New Cases.	Total Attendances.
(1) Infant Welfare—						
To 1 year	...	...	...	...	943	9380
1—2 years	...	...	...	...	—	1835
2—5 years	...	...	...	...	—	1700
(2) Specialist—						
Ophthalmic	...	...	...	...	27	57
Dental Treatment (under 5)	...	...	...	...	119	145
E.N.T. (under 5)	...	...	...	...	17	20
(3) Day Nurseries—						

		Daily Average No. Attending.	Total Attendances.
Aged 0—2 years	...	16	3991
2—5 years	...	28	6816

Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are given hereunder:—

EYE CLINICS:

					New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Hoole	...	...	...	...	4	5
Ellesmere Port	...	...	...	...	23	52
Totals	...	...	...	...	27	57

Number of Children under 5 for whom spectacles were prescribed —
Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment —

WELFARE CENTRES:

	New Cases.	Total Attendances		
		0—1	1—2	2—5
Barrow	10	119	72	130
Christleton	58	415	74	99
Ellesmere Port	323	2990	315	241
Farndon	14	172	85	140
Huntington	33	203	115	105
Ince	14	120	30	36
Kelsall	37	439	250	140
Little Sutton	167	1923	233	205
Malpas	26	226	80	99
Overpool	74	676	22	8
Saughall	45	436	98	126
Tarvin	21	306	132	134
Tattenhall	25	219	95	40
Upton	96	1136	234	197
	943	9380	1835	1700

WELFARE CENTRES:

Ellesmere Port.—A new refrigerator, costing £60. 2s. 1d., was purchased for the storage of Poliomyelitis Vaccine, and a re-conditioned typewriter was purchased at a cost of £16.

Malpas.—Two scales, costing £9. 18s. 3d., were purchased. This Clinic was transferred from the Parish Hall to the Victoria Jubilee Hall in April, and the Clinics are now held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday afternoon in each month.

Kelsall.—The rental for the hire of the Hall was increased from 17s. 6d. to £1 per Clinic as from the 1st October.

Ince.—Owing to reduced attendances at this Clinic it was decided to reduce the Clinic sessions to once per month. An unlawful entry to the Parish Hall, Ince, and the loss of Medical Equipment to the value of 16s. 6d., was reported.

Upton.—A cupboard for the storage of Welfare Foods was purchased from Wrenbury Hall Industries, at a cost of £19. 12s. 6d.

Great Boughton.—It was reported that persons unknown had been dumping rubbish on the site of the proposed clinic at Great Boughton, and a notice prohibiting the dumping of rubbish was erected.

WELFARE FOODS MINISTRY:

The distribution of Welfare Foods continued satisfactorily, largely owing to the splendid co-operation of the voluntary persons and members of the W.V.S., who have been most helpful.

The distribution and storage of Welfare Foods at S. A. Salt and Co.'s premises, Malpas, terminated on the 31st March, and was transferred to the Welfare Centre, the Jubilee Hall, Malpas.

The Distribution Point at Threapwood closed at the end of November.

The following is a summary of the number of articles issued during the year:—

National Dried Milk	...	...	...	20,858
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	...	4,153
A/D Tablets	...	...	...	2,310
Orange Juice	...	...	...	23,894

The above figures shew a marked decrease in the issues of National Dried Milk and Orange Juice. 26,459 tins of National Dried Milk and 36,732 bottles of Orange Juice were issued last year.

DAY NURSERY, ELLESmere PORT:

Attendances during the year were much the same as for the previous year, maintaining an average of 44 per day. The Nursery is classified as a 50-Place Day Nursery. During the March quarter the attendances were again low, only maintaining an average of 38 per day, the reason for absences being bronchitis, colds, tonsilitis, and the lack of seasonal employment for the mothers. The June quarter showed a great improvement in attendances, averaging 51 per day. This good attendance was maintained through July and August, but dropped to 35—40 per day during September, owing to measles and gastro-enteritis. Thirteen children had measles, seven children had gastro-enteritis. Attendances again improved during October and November, averaging 48 per day, but during December dropped to 35 per day, absences being owing to coughs, colds and other respiratory ailments.

Apart from the outbreaks of measles and gastro-enteritis in September, the general health of the children has been quite good.

The Staff do not seem to have fared so well as the children, for more or less throughout the year one member or another of the Staff have been absent owing to sickness. Eleven members of the Staff have had absences owing to sickness during the year.

The annual Sale of Work was again organised by the Matron and the Staff, and was opened by the Mayor of Ellesmere Port. The proceeds of the Sale of Work helped to provide additional toys, and enabled the Matron to hold a successful and most enjoyable Christmas Party for the children. Mr. Maxwell, the handyman, kindly undertook the duties of Father Christmas at the children's party, much to the enjoyment of the children—and Mr. Maxwell! Each child received a present from Father Christmas.

The Day Nursery was closed for the annual fortnight's holiday, 28th July to 9th August.

At the close of the year there were 58 children on the register, of whom 21 were priority cases. There were 93 non-priority children on the waiting list.

During the year two Nursery Assistants resigned and one Nursery Assistant retired, and suitable replacements were made. One Nursery Student gained her N.N.E.B. Certificate, and remained at the Nursery as a Nursery Assistant.

The charge for admission for non-priority children (both parents working) was increased from 4s. 6d. to 5s. per day per child as from the 1st April.

COSTS:

A comparative statement on the costs of the Day Nursery for the year ended 31st March, 1958, was received from the County Treasurer, and the daily cost per child during the year was as follows:—

1956/57 — 13s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. 1957/58 — 12s. 5d.

Average cost throughout the County was:—

1956/57 — 12s. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. 1957/58 — 13s. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

MIDWIVES:

Number of Births (adjusted for inward and outward transfers) ... 1,523 (including 33 stillbirths).

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

Farndon.—Repairs were carried out to the District Nurses' car at a cost of £54.

Mouldsworth.—Interior decoration was carried out at a cost of £95.

Saughall.—Part interior decoration was carried out at a cost of £52.

Tarvin.—Interior decoration was carried out at a cost of £107, and furnishing replacements were approved by the Committee at an estimated cost of £100.

Tattenhall.—Part interior decoration was carried out at a cost of £64, and a living-room carpet was purchased at a cost of £24. 17s. 6d.

The District Nurse, Miss M. U. Burke, resigned on the 31st August, and was replaced by Miss Simpson, who commenced duty on the 27th November.

Tilston.—Miss Priest, the District Nurse, retired on the 30th Nov.

CONVALESCENCE

The sum of £155 was allocated for the year ending 31st March, 1959, for convalescent treatment.

Three cases were sent for convalescence at a cost to the County Council of £37. 4s., one case for 10 days, the other two cases for 14 days each.

CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE

Mrs. K. C. Kershaw represented the Committee at the National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare Conference, held in Glasgow from the 25th to 27th June, and on her return gave an excellent and most interesting report to the Committee.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Total fees paid for the period 1.1.58—31.12.58 amounted to £1,264. 7s. 0d.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A — Vaccination:

1. PRIMARY VACCINATION—

					Males.	Females.	Total
(a)	Pre-School Children	...	...	...	603	583	1186
(b)	School Children	...	...	...	158	174	332
(c)	Adults	...	...	...	72	178	250
	Total	...	...	...	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					833	935	1768
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

2. RE - VACCINATION—

					Males.	Females.	Total
(a)	Pre-School Children	...	...	...	3	6	9
(b)	School Children	...	...	...	56	60	116
(c)	Adults	...	...	...	144	236	380
	Total	...	...	...	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					203	302	505
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

B — Diphtheria Immunisation:

INCOMPLETE—

					Males.	Females.	Total
(a)	Pre-School Children	...	...	...	274	265	539
(b)	School Children	...	...	...	2	1	3
	Total	...	...	...	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					276	266	542
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

COMPLETED—

					Males.	Females.	Total
(a)	Pre-School Children	...	...	...	407	424	831
(b)	School Children	...	...	...	11	13	24
	Total	...	...	...	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					418	437	855
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

					Males.	Females.	Total
	Re-Immunised all Children	...	...	...	61	75	136

C — Whooping Cough Immunisation:

					Males.	Females.	Total
(a)	Pre-School Children	...	...	...	603	629	1232
(b)	School Children	...	...	...	11	11	22
	Total	...	...	...	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					614	640	1254
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

These figures are not final, as records are still being received for services performed during 1958.

The fees paid to Doctors for Vaccination and Immunisation is slightly more than double the amount for the previous year (1957 : £600. 17s. 6d.), the reason for the increase being that prior to 1958 Doctors did not carry out Poliomyelitis Vaccination at their surgeries, all vaccinations being carried out at the Welfare Centres. Also the number of clinics for vaccination against Poliomyelitis was much greater than previous years.

In addition, owing to the outbreak of smallpox in the Bebington area early in the year, many more children were vaccinated against smallpox.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The scheme for vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued throughout the year. At the beginning of the year there were 2,835 children on the register awaiting vaccination. Towards the close of 1957 the Ministry extended the scheme to include children up to the age of 15, expectant mothers, medical practitioners and their families, and ambulance personnel and their families. As a result, a further 4,500 registrations were received during the first two months of the year. Registrations continued to be received throughout the year.

Commencing in January parents could, if they so desired, elect to have their children vaccinated against Poliomyelitis by their own family doctor at his surgery. Only about 7½ to 10 per cent. of the children vaccinated during the year have been vaccinated by the child's family doctor, the remainder being vaccinated at one of the Welfare Clinics or at school.

In August the Ministry further extended the scheme to include young persons up to the age of 25, and also recommended that the number of injections given be extended to three, the interval between the second and third injection to be not less than seven months. Not many registrations have been received from persons between the age of 15 and 25.

The following is a summary of the vaccinations carried out during the year:—

No. of persons (all groups) given 1st and 2nd injection	8,734
No. of persons (all groups) given 2nd injection	450
(having had 1st injection the previous year).	
No. of person (all groups) given 1st injection only ...	538
No. of persons (all groups) given 3rd injection	3,700
No. of person (all groups) awaiting vaccination (31st December, 1958)	479

The vaccinations were carried out at the following Centres: Ellesmere Port, Little Sutton, Upton, Hoole, Chester, Huntington, Kelsall, Tarvin, Tattenhall, Malpas, Farndon, Saughall, Christleton, Ince, Barrow, Tarporley and Mickle Trafford.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

The scheme for the B.C.G. vaccination of schoolchildren between their 13th and 14th birthdays continued throughout the year. The following is a summary of the work carried out:—

No. of Consent Forms issued	...	...	...	...	...	648
No. of Children for whom Consent Forms were returned						501
No. of Children tested by Mantoux Test	...	...	...	...	...	482
No. of Children positive to Mantoux Test	...	...	...	...	...	103
No. of Children vaccinated with B.C.G.	...	...	...	...	...	356
No. of Children given 8 weeks follow up Mantoux Test						226
No. of Children positive	„	„	„	„	„	226
No. of Children given 12 months	„	„	„	„	„	179
No. of Children positive to	„	„	„	„	„	175

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1958

District	Disease																																		
	Measles			Pneumonia			Dysentery			Food Poisoning			Erysipelas			Paralytic			Non-Paralytic			Acute Poliomyelitis			Encephalitis			Preperal Pyrexia			Meningococcal Infection			Paratyphoid Fever	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.						
Ellesmere Port Municipal Borough	9	16	19	10	154	146	4	3	34	41	20	1	3	1	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Chester Rural District ..	17	8	14	11	89	84	1	6	—	1	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Tarvin Rural District ..	9	4	3	3	28	27	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
TOTALS ..	35	28	36	24	271	257	7	14	34	42	22	2	3	3	2	2	—	—	3	3	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—							

STATISTICS RELATING TO CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON NOTIFICATION REGISTERS OF DISTRICT COUNCILS IN
THE DIVISION

	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1. Cases on Register at 1.1.58.....	261	89	350	252	85	337	513	174	687
2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year.....	28	3	31	29	6	35	57	9	66
3. Number of cases removed from Register during year.....	23	5	28	17	8	25	40	13	53
4. Cases on Register at 31.12.58	266	87	353	264	83	347	530*	170*	700*
*These figures are made up as follows:—									
							Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total
1. Ellesmere Port M.B.	..	..	254	..	..	79	333	333	—
2. Chester R.D.C.	..	..	173	..	..	38	211	211	—
3. Tarvin R.D.C.	..	..	103	..	..	53	156	156	—
	Total	..	530	..	..	170	700	700	—

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The total mileage performed by the vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service was 10,000 miles higher than the previous year. The number of patients transported showed an increase of 200 over the previous year.

A new Dennis ambulance was received during the year, replacing the Humber ambulance which was extensively damaged in an accident.

An additional Midget Head was purchased for the Stephen-son Minuteman Resuscitator at a cost of £30.

The Committee approved the arrangements for the maintenance of the grounds at the Ambulance Depot by the Ellesmere Port Borough Council.

All vehicles are regularly serviced and maintained, and repairs are carried out by our own staff at the Ambulance Depot.

The Ambulance Service was involved in three road accidents during the year; in two cases the drivers were not considered blameworthy; in the remaining case it was considered that the driver made an error of judgment and was blameworthy.

Thirteen members of the Ambulance Service received awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for Safe Driving during 1957.

	No. of vehicles	Total No. of Journeys	Total No. Patients Carried	No. of Accident and Emergency journeys inc. in Col. 3	Total Mileage
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
A. Directly Provided:					
Ambulances	3	1,857	5,192	587	40,867
Cars	4	2,910	11,022	286	108,355
B. By Agency:					
Ambulances	5	4,494	3,494	266	18,186
Cars	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Ambulance).					
C. Supplementary:					
Ambulances	—	4	4	—	73
Cars	—	153	153	—	3,418
(W.V.S. Taxi, etc.)					

A comparative statement on the costs of the Ambulance Service for the year ended 31st March, 1958, was received from the County Treasurer, and the cost per mile was 2s. 4½d. The average cost throughout the County was 2s. 8½d. per mile.

The personnel establishment of the Ambulance Service is as follows:—

- 1 Supervisor
- 1 Senior Driver
- 13 Driver Attendants
- 1 Driver Mechanic
- 1 Female Cleaner (part time).

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The demand for the domestic help service again shows an increase; 135 cases were attended during the year, an increase of fifteen over the previous year. Similarly, the number of cases of continued need at the end of the year shows an increase of eight cases over the previous year. The majority of the persons requiring domestic help are aged persons who by reason of their age, infirmity, or ill-health, require a little assistance each day, or in some cases once, twice or three times per week. The number of hours supplied varies in accordance with the need of each case. In many cases the need for domestic help is a permanent one, generally for the remainder of the patient's life. In other cases the need is a temporary one, the patient waiting to be admitted to hospital or to one of the County Council Residential Homes for the Aged.

The department works in close co-operation with the Hospitals and the County Welfare Department in this connection, and whenever possible everything is done to assist the aged, infirm, and those in ill-health. Every effort is made in conjunction with the Health Visitors to keep the costs down to a minimum without impairing the efficiency of the service.

A Domestic Help supervisor was appointed by the County Health Committee to supervise the Domestic Help Service in the Deeside Division and the Ellesmere Port area of this Division. The Domestic Help Supervisor commenced her duties in July, and has relieved the Health Visitors considerably. It is hoped that at some future date it may be possible to have a Supervisor to supervise the Domestic Help Service for the whole of the Division.

The following is a summary of the cases of continued need at the end of the year:—

2 cases have had Domestic Help for 8 years;
 1 case has had Domestic Help for 7 years;
 3 cases have had Domestic help for 6 years;
 2 cases have had Domestic Help for 4 years;
 3 cases have had Domestic Help for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years;
 4 cases have had Domestic Help for 3 years;
 1 case has had Domestic Help for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years;
 6 cases have had Domestic Help for 2 years;
 7 cases have had Domestic Help for $1\frac{1}{2}$ years;
 13 cases have had Domestic Help for 1 year;
 24 cases have had Domestic Help for less than 1 year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

A — Number of new applicants	...	...	...	...	126
	(of these 51 were cancelled).				
B — Number of Domestic Helps employed at 31.12.58					54
C — Number of cases attended during the year	...	...			135
D — Number of cases of continued need at 31.12.58					66

25 cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year.

6 cases were defined as Future Recovery cases;
 1 Future Recovery case was cancelled;
 In 2 Future Recovery cases collection was deferred;
 In 1 Future Recovery case the County Treasurer was authorised to recover the accumulative balance;
 In 2 Future Recovery cases recovery of the accumulative balance was approved;
 In 5 cases the debt was cancelled;
 In 6 cases the assessment was reduced;
 In 1 case the assessment was not reduced;
 In 1 case the engagement of a relative was approved.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTERCARE

A — Number of cases investigated in Division:—

(1) Tuberculosis—

(a) No. of Forms C. and A.C.4 completed (Primary Investigation)	...	...	...	...	30
(b) No. of Forms C. and A.C.22 completed (Follow-up Visits)	...	...	...	...	353

(c) No. of cases where patient has been found to have:—							
(a) Removed from area	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Been cured	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c) Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
(d) Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(e) Lost sight of	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(f) Non-tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

(2) Other than Tuberculosis—

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B — NURSING EQUIPMENT

221 articles were loaned to elderly, nursing and handicapped persons during the year. The period of loan varies in accordance with the need; in the first instance the loan is for three months, which can be extended if required. There is a deposit of 2/6d. or 10/- on each article (depending on the nature of the article, and in some cases (wheel chair, commode, bed, mattress) a weekly rental is charged. During the year the income from Rentals was £32. 11s. 0d.

The Nursing Equipment is mainly stored at the Welfare Centre, Ellesmere Port, and the following is an inventory of the various items held at the Welfare Centre (many of the items listed are out on loan):—

Invalid Wheel Chairs	...	14	Urinals	.....	18
Water/Air Beds	.....	2	Air Rings	.....	10
Dunlopillo Mattresses	...	2	Rubber Cushions	.....	1
Pillows	.....	11	Sputum Mugs	.....	2
Sheets, Single	.....	18	Sputum Flasks	.....	12
Sheets, Draw	.....	17	Breast Pumps	.....	3
Sheets, Rubber	.....	20	Commodes	.....	5
Bed Pulley	.....	1	Crutches	..... 2 pairs	
Bed Cages	.....	2	3-Legged Walking Sticks	.....	2
Back Rests	.....	11	Plastic Bags	.....	6
Bed Pans, various	.....	21	Linen Bags	.....	6

In addition the District Nurse/Midwives each have a small stock of the smaller items: bedpans, urinals, rubber sheets, etc.

C — HANDICAPPED PERSONS

- At the end of the year there were 56 cases on the handicapped persons register, many of whom were in regular employment. All cases have been visited by the Health Visitors during the year, and in the majority of cases where the person was not in regular employment the services of the County Council were not required.

Towards the end of the year the W.V.S. announced that they had a tentative scheme for the assistance of the house-bound disabled person. Names and addresses of those persons who it was thought might benefit from the service have been forwarded to the local Secretary of the W.V.S.

In the autumn the W.V.S. commenced a Meals on Wheels service in the Ellesmere Port area for the house-bound and the aged.

(ii) Number of cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Act) Nil

D — FOUL WASHING SERVICE

The Foul Washing Service was introduced to this Division during the year. The scheme provides sheets (single and draw) for patients who are incontinent and are being nursed at home. The fouled laundry is collected twice weekly and taken to the hospital (Clatterbridge or Chester City) for laundering. A charge is made for the service in accordance with the income of the household.

E — ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

In October the Ministry launched a Publicity Campaign on the Guarding of Fires. The Ministry carried out the National Publicity through the Television and the National Press. The Division carried out the local publicity with letters to the local Press, posters large and small in the various Clinics, Council Offices, Post Offices, Shops, Public Houses, Public Halls throughout the area of the Division. In addition pamphlets were enclosed with all appointments sent out in connection with the scheme for the vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III

In my capacity as the Representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, I carried out two visits of inspection to Shotwick House, Great Saughall. Very little change had taken place since 1957, and the excellent conditions of this establishment continued to maintain a high level.

ESTIMATES 1959/60

Estimates for the year 1959/60 were submitted, and following is a summary of the items recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates:—

	£
Welfare Centres	2,615
Day Nursery	2,470
Midwifery	210
Health Visiting	30
Home Nursing	1,350
Vaccination and Immunisation	690
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	565
Ambulance Service	7,569
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	325
Domestic Helps	4,515
Administration	7,025
Payment of County Districts for Notifications of Infectious Diseases	250
	<hr/>
	£27,614
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